

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~retrieving providing~~ candidate access router capability discovery information (CARD information) ~~in to~~ a user terminal ~~present in a multi access system, which the multi access system comprising comprises several one or more~~ wireless networks each with a respective access technology and each ~~wireless network~~ comprising access routers each with associated access points, the access routers exchanging CARD information by using ~~the a~~ CARD protocol on ~~the an~~ IP control plane, said method comprising:

an access router translating the CARD protocol information of other access routers received on the IP control plane into layer 2 information messages and transmitting the translated CARD protocol information of each wireless network on at least a layer 2 wireless service to the user terminal,

wherein no IP control plane signaling is used for transmitting the translated CARD information from the access router to the user terminal.

2. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the access router broadcasting the translated CARD protocol information, in each wireless network wherein no IP control plane signaling is used for broadcasting the translated CARD information.

3. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein
~~comprising transmitting the translated CARD protocol information from the~~
access router is a current access router to which the user terminal currently is
connected.

4. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 3, further
comprising, the current access router transmitting said card-CARD information
to the user terminal ~~only~~ when there is a candidate access router that offers
capabilities that suits the needs of the user terminal better than ~~does those~~
offered ~~by the current access router.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~retrieving-providing~~ candidate
access router capability discovery information (CARD information) ~~in to~~ a user
terminal ~~present in a multi access system, which the multi access system~~
comprising comprises several one or more wireless networks each with a
respective access technology and each wireless network comprising access
routers each with associated access points, the access routers exchanging
CARD information by using ~~the a~~ CARD protocol on the IP control plane, said
method comprising the following steps performed at the user terminal:

~~-first the user terminal listening to broadcasted the~~ CARD protocol
information of plural access routers of the multi access system which has been
translated into layer 2 information, ~~said listening being performed in each~~

~~wireless network~~ the CARD protocol information being broadcasted by one or more routers of the multi access system;{(-)}

- ~~next the user terminal selecting the wireless network that has offers the capabilities~~ a router among the plural access routers that best meet the requirements of the user terminal based on the broadcasted CARD protocol information;{(-)}

- ~~connecting the user terminal to an access router of the selected wireless network by~~ establishing a wireless connection to said selected access router which then becomes ~~the~~ a current access router;{(-)}

- ~~finally stop the user terminal deactivating~~ listening for the broadcasted translated CARD layer 2 information after establishing the connection to the current access router and ~~instead activating~~ listening to the translated CARD layer 2 information transmitted from the current access router on the established wireless connection.

wherein no IP control plane signaling is used in the broadcasted translated CARD information and in the transmitted CARD information.

6. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the user terminal is a dual stack UMTS/WLAN terminal connected to an access router of an UMTS network, the method further comprising:

expanding ~~the~~ a UMTS signalling protocol with the CARD protocol information and inserting in said protocol extensions the CARD information

that the current access router has gathered from neighbouring access routers by using the CARD protocol.

7. (Currently Amended) A radio access router of a wireless network, comprising:
~~provided with protocol and interface means (15, 22, 23) for exchanging~~
information on capabilities of neighbouring access routers belonging to ~~the a~~
same or to one or more different wireless networks using ~~the a~~ CARD protocol
on the IP control plane, said ~~latter neighboring~~ access routers being candidates
for access of for a user terminal in a multi access environment, ~~[,], comprising~~
and
a translator ~~(16)~~ for translating the CARD protocol information on the IP
lane into corresponding layer 2 information,
wherein no IP control plane signaling is present in the layer 2 translated
CARD protocol information.

8. (Currently Amended) A radio access router in accordance with claim
7, further comprising:
means ~~(27)~~ for evaluating ~~the~~ CARD functionalities offered by the
candidate access routers with ~~the~~ CARD functionalities offered by the access
router to which the user terminal currently is connected; and

~~for initiating transmission of means for transmitting the layer 2~~
translated CARD information ~~only in case said evaluation reveals that there is~~
~~corresponding to a candidate access router with better CARD functionalities~~
than those of the current access router ~~to the user terminal; in which case said~~
~~means is adapted to send the corresponding CARD information.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A terminal ~~lacking IP control plane for use in a~~
multi access environment comprising access networks to which access routers
in accordance with claim 7 are connected, said terminal comprising
~~conventional means for transmission and reception comprising means (21) for~~
understanding protocol extensions that relate to the layer 2 translated CARD
~~information transmitted on layer 2.~~

10. (New) In a multi access system comprising plural access routers, a
method of providing router capability information to a user terminal, said
router capability information comprising capability information of said plural
access routers, said method comprising:

an access router of said plural routers exchanging the capability
information with others of said plural routers using messages based on IP
control plane;

said access router translating said IP control plane based router
capability information into layer 2 based router capability information;

said access router connecting with said user terminal using a layer 2 communication service; and

said access router transmitting said layer 2 based router capability information to said user terminal over said layer 2 communication service,

wherein no IP control plane is used in said layer 2 communication service between said access router and said user terminal.

11. (New) A method in accordance with claim 10, further comprising said access router receiving a request from said user terminal for said router capability information over said layer 2 prior to said step of said access router transmitting said layer 2 based router capability information to said user terminal.

12. (New) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein said step of said access router transmitting said layer 2 based router capability information to said user terminal comprises:

said access router determining whether one or more of said other routers will better meet requirements of said user terminal than said access router; and

said access router transmitting said layer 2 based router capability information of said one or more other routers determined to better meet said requirements of said user terminal.

13. (New) A method in accordance with claim 10, further comprising said access router broadcasting said layer 2 based router capability information over a layer 2 broadcasting service, wherein no IP control plane is used in said layer 2 broadcasting service.

14. (New) In a multi access system comprising plural access routers, a method of selecting a target access router among said plural access routers, said method comprising:

a user terminal connecting with a current access router using a layer 2 communication service, said access router being one of said plural access routers;

said user terminal receiving layer 2 based router capability information transmitted from said current access router over said layer 2 communication service, said router capability information including capability information of said plural access routers; and

said user terminal selecting said target access router for access to said multi access system among said plural access routers based on said router capability information using a target access router selection algorithm,

wherein no IP control plane is used in said layer 2 communication service between said access router and said user terminal.

15. (New) A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising said user terminal sending a request to said current access router for said router capability information over said layer 2 prior to said step of said user terminal receiving said layer 2 based router capability information transmitted from said current access router over said layer 2 communication service.

16. (New) A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising:
said user terminal activating plural layer 2 communication interfaces;
said user terminal listening to broadcasts of said router capability information from two or more of said plural routers over said activated plural layer 2 communications interfaces, no IP control plane being used in said layer 2 broadcasting; and

said user terminal selecting said current access router for access to said multi access system among based on said broadcasted router capability information using said target access router selection algorithm,

wherein said step of said user terminal connecting with said current access router occurs after said current access router is selected.

17. (New) A method in accordance with claim 16, further comprising said user terminal deactivating all layer 2 communication interfaces except the interface used in communication with said current access router after said step of said user terminal selecting said current access router.